

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT TO SIGN INTO LAW CS/CS/HB 959, WHICH ESSENTIALLY PROHIBITS STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FROM CONTRACTING FOR GOODS OR SERVICES WITH COMPANIES THAT ENGAGE IN BUSINESS IN OR WITH CUBA OR SYRIA; PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED BILL; AND URGING MIAMI-DADE TO COMPLY WITH THE BILL ONCE IT IS SIGNED INTO LAW.

WHEREAS, with a population of approximately 11 million, Cuba is a totalitarian communist state that does not tolerate opposition to official policy; and

WHEREAS, the Cuban government continues to deny its citizens their basic human rights, including the right to change their government, and has committed numerous and serious abuses against the citizens of Cuba, including torture, incarceration, arbitrary arrest and detention, denial of medical care, harassments and threats; and

WHEREAS, Cuba is on the United States Department of State's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, and for nearly half a century, the United States has unilaterally imposed an economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba; and

WHEREAS, also on the Department of State's list of State Sponsors of Terrorism is the nation of Syria; and

WHEREAS, in February 1982, the Syrian army, under the orders of Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, effectively ended a campaign begun in 1976 by Sunni Islamic groups against the Assad regime with what is now known as "the Hama massacre," the quelling of a revolt by the Sunni Muslim community against the al-Assad regime that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Syrian citizens; and

WHEREAS, the oppressive Assad Regime blatantly murders protestors of the regime, regularly detains political and human rights activists and journalists, and engages in widespread media censorship; and

WHEREAS, effective August 18, 2011, President Barack Obama issued a new Executive Order imposing significant new economic sanctions on Syria; and

WHEREAS, the sanctions include prohibitions on United States persons engaging in any transactions with the Syrian Government, making new investments in Syria, providing any services to Syria, or conducting business dealing in or related to petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin; and

WHEREAS, it is the prerogative and desire of the State of Florida, with respect to investment resources in its control and to the extent reasonable, not to participate in an ownership or capital-providing capacity with entities that provide significant practical support for terrorism and human rights violations; and

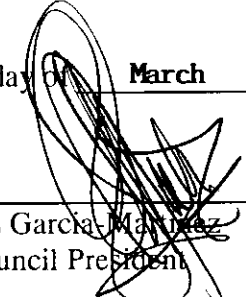
WHEREAS, CS/CS/HB 959 was overwhelmingly approved with strong bipartisan support in both the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble of this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah urge Florida Governor Rick Scott to sign into law CS/CS/HB 959, which essentially prohibits state or local government agencies from contracting for goods or services with companies that engage in business in or with Cuba or Syria; pledge their support for the proposed bill; and urge Miami-Dade County to comply with the bill once it is signed into law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of March, 2012.



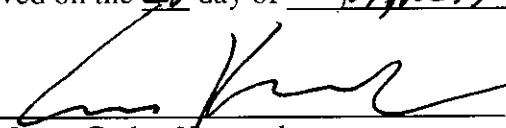
Isis Garcia Martinez
Council President

Attest:

Approved on the 28 day of March, 2012.




David Concepcion, City Clerk



Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to legal sufficiency and form:



William M. Grodnick, City Attorney